

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-07

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S E C R E T OSLO 4677

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; STATE FOR PM/ISO

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TAGS: MARR PFOR NATO NO

SUBJECT: COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES IN NORWAY

REF: A) USDOCO KOLSAAS 191500Z DEC 73 (NOTAL; B) OSLO 4639;

C) STATE 235670; D) OSLO 4460; E) OSLO 4424

1. ERIK HIMLE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, ASKED ME TO SEE HIM DECEMBER 19 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES (COB'S). HIMLE, REFERRING TO OUR PROPOSALS AS "WARTIME DEPLOYMENT OF AIR FORCE UNITS," INFORMED ME THAT NORWEGIAN MILITARY HAVE COMPLETED A PRELIMINARY STUDY FAVORABLE TO PROPOSAL BUT THAT, AS DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL HAD TOLD ME ON DECEMBER 4 (REF D), ISSUE WILL HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S SECURITY BOARD (A GROUP OF SIX CABINET MINISTERS UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER.

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2. HIMLE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOES

NOT WISH TO SUBMIT THE COB PROPOSAL TO THE SECURITY BOARD AS AN ISLOATED ITEM. THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY ARE IN PROCESS OF PREPARING A "TOTAL WARTIME DEPLOYMENT PLAN" WHICH INCORPORATES PLANS FOR USE OF NORWEGIAN BASES BY AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT, MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES, BRITISH FORCES, AND NORWEGIAN UNITS. WHEN STUDY COMPLETED AND CHIEF OF DEFENSE MAKES HIS RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEFENSE MINISTER, NORWAY WILL BE IN POSITION TO IDENTIFY AVAILABLE AIRBASES AND ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON COB PROPOSAL IN DETAIL. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ON TIMING, HIMLE SAID HE HOPED STUDY WOULD BE COMPLETED IN COURSE OF SPRING 1974. ON THE SPECIFIC COB PROPOSAL, WHICH WILL BE A PART OF THE TOTAL WARTIME DEPLOYMENT PLAN, HIMLE RAISED A NUMBER OF POINTS REQUIRING CLARIFICATION AND SAID THAT NORWEGIAN MILITARY WILL BE SEEKING ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS FROM U.S. MILITARY.

3. IN A PARALLEL MEETING ON DECEMBER 19, THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS OF NORWEGIAN DEFENSE COMMAND, MGEN JOHN RYG, PRESENTED QUESTIONS IN SOMEWHAT GREATER DETAIL TO MGEN K.S. YOUNG (USAF), AIR DEPUTY, AFONORTH, WHO THEN CABLED QUESTIONS TO CINCUSAFE (REF A). TEXT OF AFNORTH MESSAGE IS REPEATED IN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM (OSLO 4678).

4. I CONSIDER NORWEGIAN REACTION TO COB PROPOSAL AS FUNDAMENTALLY POSITIVE AND, WHILE NORWEGIANS MAY NOT PERCEIVE ANY POLITICAL OBSTACLES, THEY ARE ACUTELY AWARE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO PRESTOCKAGE ISSUE (REF E). HIMLE HIMSELF OBSERVED THAT THESE MATTERS ARE MORE SENSITIVE THAN THEY USED TO BE--FIRST, "BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PEACE," AND, SECOND, "BECAUSE THE SV (SOCIALIST ELECTROAL LEAGUE) HAS BEEN DIGGING VERY HARD TO FIND SOMETHING TO USE TO ATTACK NORWAY'S DEFENSE POLICY, " MENAING MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND COOPERATION WITH U.S.

5. THE NORWEGIANS HAVE IN EFFECT PREEMPTED OUR CONCERNS OVER THE RELATIONSHIP OF MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE REQUIREMENTS TO THOSE OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE (REF B) BY INSISTING THAT LOCAL REQUIREMENTS BE INCORPORATED INTO THE OVERALL PLAN. I WILL, HOWEVER, EXPECT TO GO BACK TO HIMLE OR FOSTERVOLL WITH ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY HIMLE, AS ELABORATED BY

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GENERAL RYG TO GENERAL YOUNG, AND I THEREFORE LOOK FORWARD TO CINCEUR/CINCUSAFE RESPONSE AND WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT. BYRNE

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